

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for facilitating a request for proposal (RFP) in an electronic marketplace, the method comprising the computer implemented steps of:  
posting the RFP in an electronic marketplace;  
communicating a portion of the RFP to at least one of a plurality of primary and secondary marketplace participants; and  
posting a proposal in the electronic marketplace from at least one of the primary and secondary marketplace participants, wherein the proposal is associated with the RFP.
2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
facilitating direct access to the RFP by the primary and secondary marketplace participants.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein access to the proposals posted by primary and secondary marketplace participants is restricted to specific parties.
4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
posting a modified version of the original RFP in the electronic market place, wherein modifications are based upon proposals submitted by the primary and secondary marketplace participants.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the electronic marketplace is a public marketplace.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the electronic marketplace is a private marketplace.

7. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system, for facilitating a request for proposal (RFP) in an electronic marketplace, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for posting the RFP in an electronic marketplace;

second instructions for communicating a portion of the RFP to at least one of a plurality of primary and secondary marketplace participants; and

10 third instructions for posting a proposal in the electronic marketplace from at least one of the primary and secondary marketplace participants, wherein the proposal is associated with the RFP.

8. The computer program product according to claim 7, further comprising:  
15 instructions for facilitating direct access to the RFP by the primary and secondary marketplace participants.

9. The computer program product according to claim 7, wherein access to the proposals posted by primary and secondary marketplace participants is restricted to  
20 specific parties.

10. The computer program product according to claim 7, further comprising:  
instructions for posting a modified version of the original RFP in the electronic market place, wherein modifications are based upon proposals submitted by the primary  
25 and secondary marketplace participants.

11. The computer program product according to claim 7, wherein the electronic marketplace is a public marketplace.

12. The computer program product according to claim 7, wherein the electronic marketplace is a private marketplace.

13. A system for facilitating a request for proposal (RFP) in an electronic marketplace, the method comprising the computer implemented steps of:

a posting component which posts the RFP in an electronic marketplace;

a first communicating component which communicates a portion of the RFP to at least one of a plurality of primary and secondary marketplace participants; and

posting a proposal in the electronic marketplace from at least one of the primary and secondary marketplace participants, wherein the proposal is associated with the RFP.

14. The system according to claim 13, further comprising:

an accessing component which facilitates direct access to the RFP by the primary and secondary marketplace participants.

15. The system according to claim 13, wherein access to the proposals posted by primary and secondary marketplace participants is restricted to specific parties.

16. The system according to claim 13, further comprising:

a posting component which posts a modified version of the original RFP in the electronic market place, wherein modifications are based upon proposals submitted by the primary and secondary marketplace participants.

17. The system according to claim 13, wherein the electronic marketplace is a public marketplace.

18. The system according to claim 13, wherein the electronic marketplace is a private  
5 marketplace.

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